MINUTES State Board of Education Meeting

Date Thursday, November 10, 2011

Time 1:00 p.m.

Location
Rutledge Conference Center
1429 Senate Street
Columbia, South Carolina

Gerrita Postlewait, Chair
Dennis Thompson, Chair-elect
Mick Zais, PhD
State Superintendent of Education
Secretary and Administrative Officer to the Board

SBE Mission: The State Board of Education's mission is to provide a leadership role in helping South Carolina set policy and direction to transform teaching and learning so that students are prepared with the necessary knowledge and skills, including innovation, to compete globally and live a productive life.

I. WELCOME/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The State Board of Education meeting convened at 1:00 p.m. Chair Postlewait called the meeting to order and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following State Board of Education (SBE) members were in attendance: Gerrita Postlewait, Chair, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit; Dennis Thompson, Jr., Chair-elect, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit; David Longshore, PhD, First Judicial Circuit; Tim Moore, Esq., Second Judicial Circuit (arrived at 1:45 p.m.); David Blackmon, PhD, Fourth Judicial Circuit; Rose Sheheen, Fifth Judicial Circuit; Josie Gaston, Sixth Judicial Circuit; Neil Willis, Seventh Judicial Circuit; Dru James, Eighth Judicial Circuit; Larry Kobrovsky, Ninth Judicial Circuit; Marilyn (Lyn) Norton, EdD, Tenth Judicial Circuit; Barry Bolen, Eleventh Judicial Circuit; Michael Blue, Twelfth Judicial Circuit; Phillip Bowers, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit; and John Rampey, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit.

Absent with apologies were Bonnie Disney, Third Judicial Circuit, and Mike Brenan, Governor's Appointee.

The following South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) staff were in attendance: Mick Zais, PhD, State Superintendent of Education; Scott English, Chief Operating Officer, Administration; Charmeka Bosket, Deputy Superintendent, Policy and Research, Office of Policy and Research; Shelly Bezanson Kelly, General Counsel and Parliamentarian, Office of General Counsel; Mark Bounds, Deputy Superintendent, Division of School Effectiveness; Nancy Busbee, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Accountability; and Cindy Clark, Recording Secretary.

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II. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES FOR STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING ON OCTOBER 13, 2011

Chair Postlewait stated that the minutes contain an amendment of the State Board of Education Policy Regarding Fiscal Responsibility and Accountability, which requires that the state superintendent report to the SBE anything over \$10 million. The item was amended in the PL committee to set a threshold of \$10 million as the amount of possible grants about which we would ask for information in terms of the SCDE and Dr. Zais's decision to pursue them or not to pursue them. This is a modification of what the SBE had already approved without the \$10 million threshold. She asked if there were any objections to approving the minutes, as amended, for the SBE meeting on October 13, 2011. She called for a vote and the motioned carried unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 10, 2011

Chair Postlewait asked for a motion to approve or amend the SBE agenda for November 10, 2011. She called for a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

IV. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS, INCLUDING NEWS MEDIA

Chair Postlewait welcomed all visitors. There were no news media present.

V. ELECTION OF CHAIR-ELECT FOR 2012

FOR APPROVAL

Chair Postlewait noted for the record that there is a rule regarding the SBE Chair-elect Nominating Committee (committee) appointments. Rule BBAA of the SBE Rules of Governance states that the nominating committee will have three SBE members serving on the committee. Chair Postlewait stated that she asked for volunteers to serve on this committee. She also asked an additional SBE member to serve to ensure that there would be a diversity of viewpoints represented on the committee. As a result, there were more than three SBE members serving on the committee. Chair Postlewait asked if any SBE members had a concern with the technical discrepancy. Hearing none, she asked Barry Bolen to present the committee's recommendation for a new SBE Chair-elect. Mr. Bolen reported that the committee consisted of Mike Brenan, Michael Blue, Lyn Norton, Rose Sheheen, and himself. He said the committee recommended Dr. David Blackmon to serve as the SBE Chair-elect for 2012. Chair Postlewait asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Phillip Bowers nominated Mike Brenan. Chair Postlewait called for the vote on the first nomination, Dr. David Blackmon. By show of hands, Dr. Blackmon was elected as the next SBE Chair-elect and was congratulated by the SBE.

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VI. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT

State Superintendent of Education Zais reported that, over the past month, he has participated in several meetings, conferences, events, and has visited several schools. On October 14, 2011, he spoke to the Fall Conference of the South Carolina Association of Teacher Educators. On October 17, he visited Kelly Edwards Elementary School, Blackville-Hilda High School, and Barnwell High School, which are all in Barnwell County. On October 18, Dr. Zais spoke to the American Graduates Summit hosted by South Carolina Educational Television. On October 19, he spoke to the Anderson County Chamber of Commerce and a large number of local community members who attended that meeting. On October 25, he visited the Legacy Charter School, AJ Whittenburg Elementary School, and the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, which are all in Greenville County. On October 27, Dr. Zais presented the 2011 Milken Excellence in Education Award along with a check for \$25,000 to Jeremy Powell, a math teacher at Westside High School in Anderson School District Five. Also on October 27, he visited McCants Middle School, Calhoun Academy for the Arts Elementary School, and Midway Elementary School, which are all in Anderson School District Five.

On November 1, Dr. Zais visited Williams Memorial Elementary School in Dorchester School District Four, and Oakbrook Elementary School in Dorchester School District Two. He commented that both of these schools have high rates of poverty but outstanding third-grade PASS scores, and said he was interested in what the school is doing to be so successful in teaching reading. On November 2, Dr. Zais spoke to the Capitol City Rotary Club. In Columbia on November 3, he spoke to the South Carolina Education Connections Forum, organized by the South Carolina Association of School Administrators. On November 4, Dr. Zais visited Gray Court Owings Elementary School and Gray Court Owings Middle School in Laurens School District 55. Also on November 4, he spoke to the Greater Greer Chamber of Commerce and visited the Bonds Career Center in the Greenville School District. On November 7, Dr. Zais spoke to the Columbia Rotary Club.

In addition to public appearances, Dr. Zais had a number of meetings with teachers and superintendents. On October 17, he met with the three Barnwell County district superintendents. On October 19, Dr. Zais met with the faculty from the education department at Anderson University. On November 1, he met with the faculty from the education department at the College of Charleston. Dr. Zais added that he had given handouts to the SBE members during today's meeting. The handouts included a memorandum to the district superintendents encouraging them to apply for flexibility, news releases on state report cards and graduation rates, and a news release on South Carolina's scores.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one present for public comment.

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VIII. PUBLIC HEARING

There was no one present for public hearing comments.

FOR APPROVAL

PH-01

<u>Promulgate Amendments to 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-220, Gifted and Talented (Second Reading)</u>—Rick Blanchard, Education Associate, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Accountability

Rick Blanchard provided the SBE with an overview of the proposed amendments and stated that there were just a couple of minor typographical changes between first and second reading. Rose Sheheen moved for approval of this item. John Rampey seconded the motion. Chair Postlewait asked for a vote on approval of the proposed amendments to 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-220 on second reading. The motion carried.

PH-02

<u>Promulgate Amendments to 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-237.1, Adult Education</u>—David Stout, EdD, Director, Office of Adult Education, Division of Accountability

Dr. David Stout provided the SBE with an overview of the proposed amendments and stated that there were two changes. One change was to officially change the name of the office. It was previously named Office of Adult and Community Education – removing the term "community." The other change was to change the way the programs are funded. The legislature, through proviso, stipulated that 30 percent of the funds had to be spent on 17- to 21-year olds, and the rest of the money would be spent based on performance measures instead of just a head count. Chair Postlewait asked for a motion. David Blackmon moved for approval of this item. Dennis Thompson, Jr. seconded the motion. Chair Postlewait asked for a vote on approval of the proposed amendments to 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-237.1. The motion carried.

PH-03

<u>Promulgate Amendments to 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-243, Special Education, Education of Students with Disabilities (Second Reading) to meet compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA)</u>—Marlene Metts, Director, Office of Exceptional Children, Division of Accountability

Marlene Metts provided the SBE with an overview of the proposed amendments and stated that there were minor changes regarding clarifying the age range of eligibility criteria. Ms. Metts said that the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) has specific requirements for public input. As a result of a written comment received, the SCDE recommends incorporating the common date of

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enrollment, September 1, so that we do not risk students in the upper-age range losing eligibility when moving from one district to another.

Chair Postlewait asked for a motion. Lyn Norton moved for approval of this item. Barry Bolen seconded the motion.

Larry Kobrovsky asked which students qualify as special education students. Mr. Kobrovsky said the description of the characteristic concerning inappropriate types of behavior seems very vague and asked how this definition of a special education student is determined. Ms. Metts responded that this term is defined in the federal register. In addition to the definition, states develop eligibility criteria, and she stated that the SCDE recently revised the criteria. Mr. Kobrovsky also asked about the suspension and expulsion rates and data regarding race and ethnicity and how ethnicity is defined. Ms. Metts stated that the race and ethnicity categories are common across all federal reporting and specified in all federal regulations. She added that race and ethnicity categories are reported by the parents. Ms. Metts added that she will e-mail additional information concerning race and ethnicity to all SBE members.

After discussion, Chair Postlewait asked for a vote on the motion to approve the amendments to 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-243 on second reading. The motion carried.

PH-04

<u>Promulgate Amendments to 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-262.4, End-of-Course Tests (Second Reading)</u>— Elizabeth Jones, Director, Office of Assessment, Division of Accountability

Liz Jones provided the SBE with an overview of the proposed amendments and stated that there was one major change to this regulation requested from one of the school districts. The change would be that if a student takes two courses in the same subject area where the end-of-course test is required, the student would take a test following the first course, and the test would count as 20 percent of the student's grade. If the student passes the course and the student takes another course that has the same end-of-course test, the student would not take an end-of-course test again. Chair Postlewait asked for a motion. Michael Blue moved for approval of this item. Dru James seconded the motion.

Rose Sheheen asked for further clarification on the amendments discussed. Ms. Jones explained that the issue came up when a student had taken U.S. History and Constitution for high school credit for graduation, took the end of course test, and passed the course. The student came back and took U.S. History I.B. After discussion, Chair Postlewait called for a vote on approval of the proposed amendments to 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-262.4 on second reading. The motion carried.

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PH-05

<u>Promulgate Amendments to 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-300, Accreditation Criteria (Second Reading)</u>—Darlene Prevatt, Team Leader, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Accountability

Darlene Prevatt provided the SBE with an overview of the proposed amendments and stated that the amendment will serve to approve the value and quality of the accreditation process. Ms. Prevatt said there were no changes between first and second reading. Chair Postlewait asked for a motion. David Blackmon moved for approval of this item. Dru James seconded the motion.

David Longshore asked about the effective date, and Ms. Prevatt stated that it will be December 2013.

After discussion, Chair Postlewait asked for a vote on approval of the proposed amendments to 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-300 on second reading. The motion carried.

IX. STATE BOARD ITEMS

SB-01

FOR INFORMATION

<u>Common Core State Standards Assessment Study Group Report</u>—The South Carolina Department of Education in conjunction with SEDL will update the State Board of Education on the input received from the Assessment Study Group—Elizabeth Jones, Director, Division of Accountability, Office of Assessment

Liz Jones presented a brief overview of the steps we are taking to give the SBE thorough and complete information to move to a new assessment program for 2014–15 so that the SBE can make a decision about assessments aligning with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). There are two major simultaneous activities going on. One activity is to obtain an independent fiscal impact study on the cost of developing and administering assessments for 2014–15. SCDE is considering four test options. The first is to administer commercially developed tests. The second option is to administer a state-developed a test. The third option is to use a test developed by the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), and the fourth option is to use a test developed by the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Consortium. SCDE is also considering the capacity of schools to administer online assessments. SCDE is awaiting the results of an online survey being conducted by a contractor hired by SBAC and PARCC. The survey will provide a capacity inventory that will be of significance to the fiscal impact information that the state must consider in determining which assessment option to pursue. Ms. Jones added that the second major activity regarding moving to a new assessment program for 2014–15 involves the Assessment Study Group (ASG). She introduced Kris Kaase, a Southwest Educational Development Laboratory (SEDL) consultant, who presented the highlights of the ASG report.

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Dr. Kaase stated that the purpose of the ASG's report is to provide input to state policy makers on the strengths and weaknesses of the assessment options the state might pursue in support of implementing the CCSS. After answering questions from SBE members, Dr. Kasse stated that while the ASG was not charged with making a recommendation for a new assessment program, the study group felt strongly that we need to have information that compares South Carolina's students to other students across the nation, and that there needs to be a better alignment between K–12 and post-secondary institutions. Rose Sheheen commented that she was skeptical when this effort was started, but that the SCDE and ASG's organizing, planning, and presentation have been a great help in assisting the SBE with making a decision on the assessment issue.

Dru James moved that the SCDE eliminate the state-developed and commercially developed options and consider only the SBAC and PARCC options. The motion was seconded by David Blackmon.

Larry Kabrovsky stated that it would be premature to make a decision today. Mrs. James said that this has been under consideration all year, and that one of the SLA goals approved by the SBE six months ago was that the SBE would make a recommendation at today's meeting. She added that the recommendation would not be a final recommendation. Mr. Kobrovsky said the SBE should have been notified before today's meeting rather than turning an information item into a vote towards what direction we are headed. He added that he had not anticipated making this decision today. Phillip Bowers commented that he agrees with Mr. Kobrosky and that the motion is out of order since it was presented as an information item only. Tim Moore moved that we suspend the rules and amend the agenda to allow the original motion to go forward. David Blackmon seconded the motion.

Chair Postlewait placed the SBE into a recess break to discuss the details of the motion's appropriateness and further clarify the SBE's appropriate course of action. After the 15-minute recess, the SBE resumed its meeting.

At the Chair's request SCDE staff member Dr. Nancy Busbee reviewed the fiscal impact part of the ASG report. She explained that the contractor is analyzing the cost of each of the four options. The two consortia, SBAC and PARCC, are working together to do a survey of states to determine each state's capacity to administer the test at the local level. The SCDE's contractor will have administration costs in January but will not have the capacity of the local school districts to administer the test nor will they have the dollar figure it would take to get them to that level if the districts are not all ready. Dr. Busbee stated that in January the SCDE will have part one of the fiscal impact but not part two. She added that there is not a due date for part two at this time.

Chair Postlewait commented that only one major part of an assessment program was discussed today, which is the year-end assessment. This assessment provides information as to how South Carolina is doing compared to other states and an idea of how we are doing internationally. It is not the kind of assessment that teachers, students, and parents need on a daily basis. She stated that she is concerned that if we are not careful, we will commit ourselves to a course of action that expends too large a portion of scarce resources on the test that informs public policy makers and program designers and does not

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leave enough resources to meet the individual needs of students, parents, and teachers. Chair Postlewait said that at the end of every six weeks or every semester, parents need to be able to determine how their child is doing in terms of their learning environment. If their child is not thriving in their learning environment, parents should have the opportunity to choose a different learning environment. Until this can be done for South Carolina's children, we have fallen short of what we know should be done. As a result of the fiscal impact explanation provided by Dr. Busbee, Chair Postlewait urged the SBE not to take action until the amount of resources available is known.

David Blackmon withdrew both of his seconded motions based on the information presented by Dr. Busbee, and Tim Moore withdrew his motion to suspend the rules and amend the agenda to allow the original motion to go forward. Also, Dru James withdrew her motion that the SCDE eliminate the home-grown and off-the-shelf options and consider only the SBAC and PARCC assessment options. Mrs. James stated, however, that she hopes the SBE continues to focus on narrowing options regarding the assessment choices.

Rose Sheheen commented that she hopes her grandchildren and all young children are not tested every six weeks. She said it is the teacher's job to regularly inform parents of the progress of their students. If we test constantly, it indicates teachers are not doing their job and that we are trying to find a way to do the job of the teacher. Mrs. Sheheen stated that while she values the feedback provided in today's meeting, she does not want testing to become part of the state's mission—that this is part of the educator's mission.

Chair Postlewait commented that teachers should be provided the tools they need to ensure that every child is prepared to succeed at the next level. She said she would like the SBE to consider asking why South Carolina cannot move to a system where the entrance exam for technical college entry is the same as the exit exam used in our high schools.

Chair Postlewait thanked Dru James, the SLA Committee, the ASG, and the SEDL staff for assisting the SBE with assessment options for South Carolina. She stated that we all want to know how our students are doing compared to students in other states, yet we do not want to move forward with an assessment regime that some people feel is a movement toward a federal curriculum. Lyn Norton stated that she does not want to blindside the four new SBE members whose terms start in January 2012 with something of this magnitude as it relates to the timeline.

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ECC EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION CASES

Committee Report—Mike Brenan, Chair

Ratification of the Cases Presented before the Educator Certification Committee

Dennis Thompson, who chaired the ECC Committee in the absence of Mike Brenan, moved that the SBE ratify the educator certification cases presented during the ECC Committee meeting. Chair Postlewait called for the vote, and the motion carried.

EP EDUCATION PROFESSIONS

Committee Report—David Longshore, Chair

FOR APPROVAL

O1. Educator Appeal of Denial of Certification Upgrade—Allison Jacques, PhD, Director, Office of Educator Certification, Recruitment, and Preparation, Division of School Effectiveness

David Longshore reported that the EP Committee did not make any recommendations in today's meeting, but plans to do so in the December committee meeting.

PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE

Committee Report—Gerrita Postlewait, Chair

Chair Postlewait gave a brief overview of all PL Committee items and reported that one PL Committee item will be presented to the SBE. She stated that all other items were placed on the consent agenda.

FOR APPROVAL

Update and Next Steps on the State Board of Education Decision on Innovation—
Gerrita Postlewait, Chair, State Board of Education

Chair Postlewait stated that the PL Committee recommends that the SBE appoint a steering committee to help identify, initiate, and evaluate effective innovative practices in the state. She referred to the handout, *An Approach to Systemic Change, Transforming South Carolina's Public Schools.* Chair Postlewait said that the SBE would be voting on the first sentence which reads, "To establish a steering committee comprising a small

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number of public/private sector leaders who will develop a plan to catalyze, identify, evaluate, and spread effective innovation in South Carolina's K–12 public schools." She added that the committee would be composed of co-chairs including the SBE Chair or Chair-elect, the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee (EOC) Executive Director, and the South Carolina Future Minds Executive Director. The steering committee members would include representatives advocating effective innovation in South Carolina's K–12 public schools. Chair Postlewait reviewed the committee's goals and said she hopes that by the end of December 2012 the group would be able to bring back recommendations for each of the six phases of the cycle of innovation. She explained the six phases of incorporating systems change, which include innovation, incubation, evaluation, elevation, replication, and incorporation. Also, Chair Postlewait commented that the steering committee members would like to work with Dr. Zais regarding his education initiatives.

Neil Willis expressed his interest in serving on the committee. Chair Postlewait added that Mike Brenan and other SBE members have also stated that they would like to serve on the steering committee.

Chair Postlewait stated that private enterprises in South Carolina will help provide funding for seed money to get change started in classrooms and districts.

Chair Postlewait moved, on behalf of the PL Committee, that the Board approve establishing a steering committee comprised of a small number of public/private sector leaders who will develop a plan to catalyze, identify, evaluate, and spread effective innovation in South Carolina's K–12 public schools. The motion carried.

SLA STANDARDS, LEARNING, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Committee Report—Dru James, Chair

Dru James stated that there was no SLA Committee meeting this morning. She added that next month's committee meeting will include members of the Instructional Leaders Roundtable giving their thoughts on the ASG.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were approved in committee and placed on the Consent Agenda:

Policy and Legislative (PL)

O1. Request for Approval of Property Disposal—Pickens County School District—Delisa Clark, Director, Office of School Facilities, Division of Operations and Support

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- **Latta School District Waiver Request of State Board of Education Regulation 43-261, District and School Planning**—Darlene Prevatt, Team Leader, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Accountability
- 03. Proposed Amendments to State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 24 S.C. Code Ann.

 Regs 43-234 (R 43-234), Defined Program, Grades 9–12 (First Reading)—Charmeka Bosket,
 Deputy Superintendent, Office of Policy and Research

Chair Postlewait asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Rose Sheheen moved to approve the consent agenda. Lyn Norton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

XI. LEGISLATIVE REPORT AND REQUESTS REGARDING REGULATIONS

Charmeka Bosket, Deputy Superintendent for Policy and Research, Office of Policy and Research

Charmeka Bosket reported that the General Assembly has set the dates for the prefiling of legislation.

XII. OTHER BUSINESS

State Superintendent of Education Zais commented on the SBE's review policy directive to the Office of the State Superintendent of Education regarding grants. He said that the Office of the State Superintendent of Education and the SBE are separate entities. He said he was transparent on his position about Race to the Top and EduJobs during the campaign trail. He said the action of the SBE today implies that the state superintendent is subordinate to the SBE and that is not the case. Dr. Zais added that he will not abide by the politics pushed by some members of the SBE and asked that last year's election be history. He reminded the SBE that he won the election by a significant margin. Dr. Zais commented that he is out visiting schools and listening to teachers, principals, district superintendents, the business community, and the public about what they expect from the education system. He said that it has been over a year since the election and that he has moved forward; he asked the SBE to do the same.

Chair Postlewait stated that she respectfully disagreed with Dr. Zais's comments concerning the spirit of some SBE members' intentions regarding the vote on the amended policy directive. She said her vote was to ensure the avoidance of any misunderstandings about the sources of funds that are available and the decisions to pursue those funds or not to pursue them, and she stated that the SBE will have to work through whether or not they have a right to ask for this kind of information.

Concerning the SBE's 2010 budget, Chair Postlewait stated that the SBE needs an answer as to whether or not they voted on a budget in 2010. Also, Chair Postlewait reported that the EOC will present their findings on report cards to the SBE in the December meeting. Regarding SBE committee goals, she asked for a report on each committee's progress towards meeting their goals this year and stated that the reports should be ready for presentation to the full Board during the December meeting. Chair

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Postlewait added that she has asked Charmeka Bosket to invite all known new SBE members to the December SBE and committee meetings.

Regarding SBE meeting attendance, Chair Postlewait stated that member attendance is very important, and that if we are not notified of an absence until the night before a meeting, the SBE committees run the risk of not having a quorum. She said that the new deadline for reporting absences will be the end of business on the Monday before the SBE meetings, and she asked the members to notify her or Recording Secretary Cindy Clark of any absences. Chair Postlewait encouraged the SBE members to attend all committee and full-board meetings.

Chair Postlewait extended an invitation to the SBE members to meet for dinner the evening before the December meeting. She said that the dinner would be "dutch treat," no official business would be discussed, and it would be an opportunity to celebrate the service of all SBE members during the past year.

Dr. David Blackmon expressed appreciation to the SBE members for the flowers, thoughts, and concerns extended to him and his family after the recent passing of his brother.

Chair Postlewait thanked those who arrived early to discuss assessments today and the entire SBE for their commitment and willingness to share their viewpoints every month.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the SBE adjourned at 3:15 p.m.